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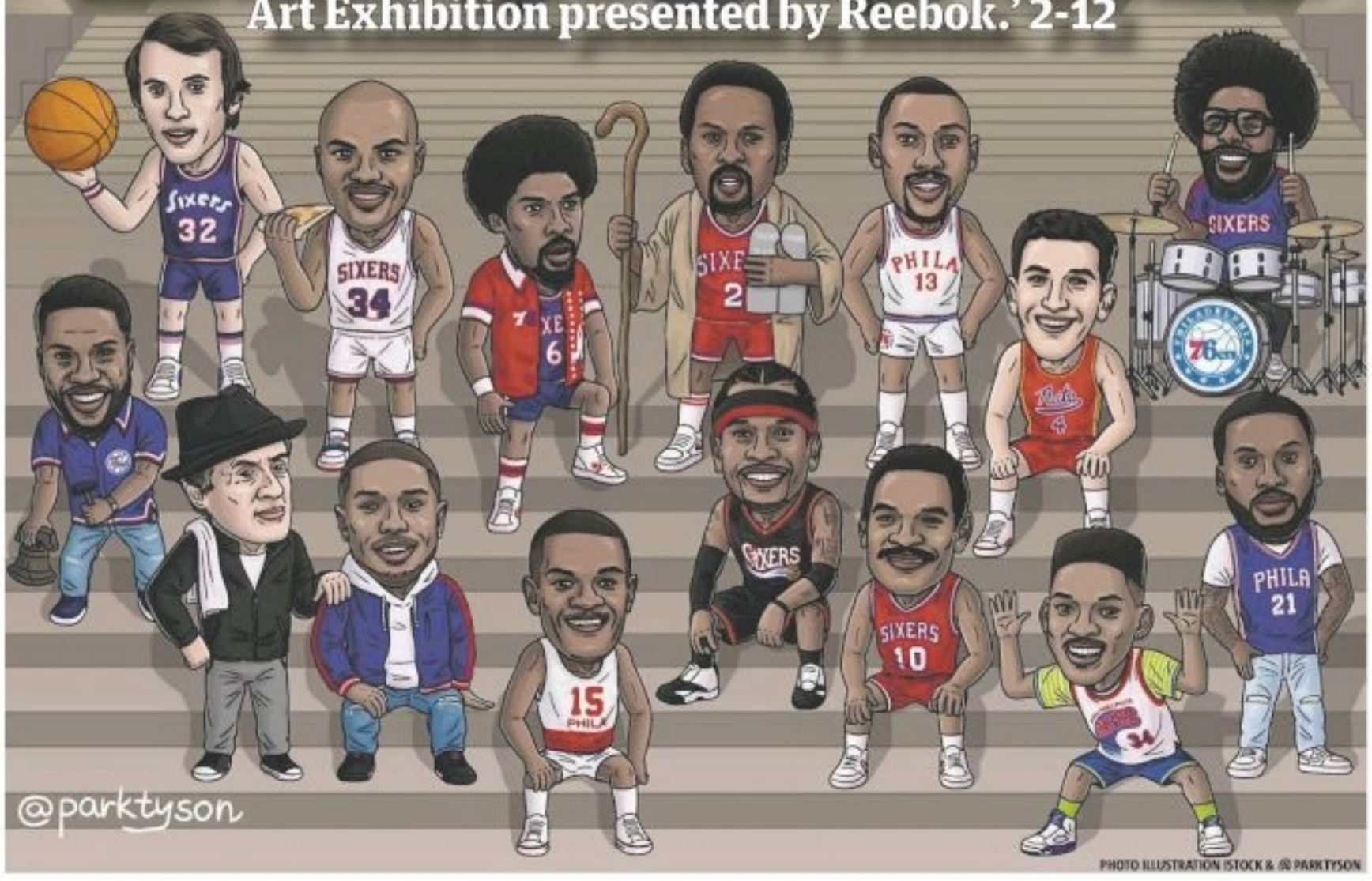
Winter Arts PREVIEW

Metro has the scoop on everything arts-related this winter season in Philadelphia, including the new '76ers Crossover: Art Exhibition presented by Reebok.' 2-12



At least 2 dead in Calif. school shooting. 14

Brady, Patriots waiting for Eagles after bye week. 23

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Limited-time $50 VISA gift card offer. 22

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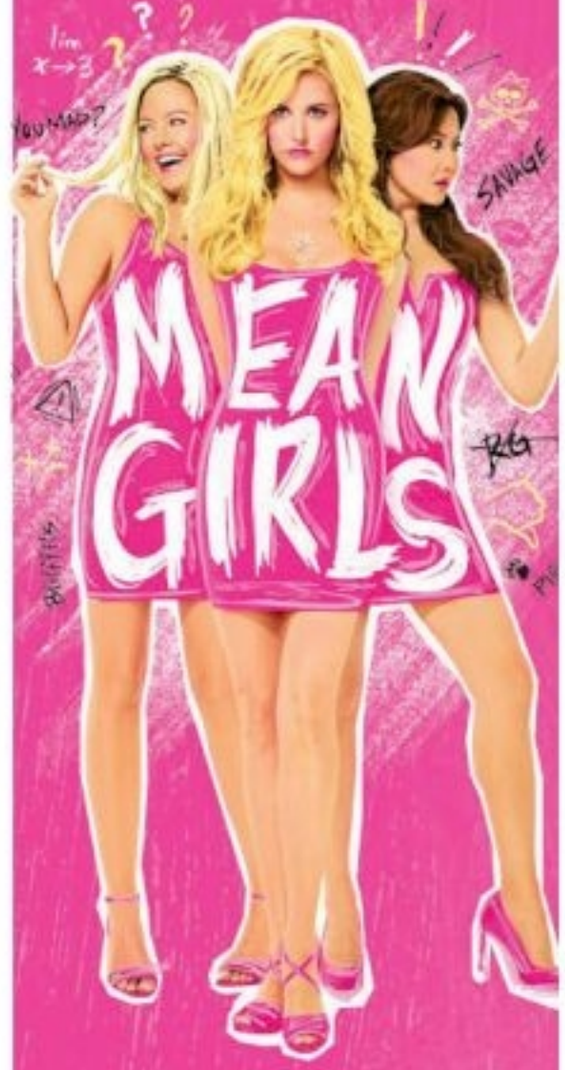

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WINTER ARTS PREVIEW

Here they come

The "76ers Crossover: Art Exhibition presented by Reebok" is the first step into celebrating the intersection of basketball throughout the city.

MOLLY GIVEN

Here they come, Philadelphia.

The 76ers have been an integral part of the make-up of the strong, sports-loving city of Philadelphia since their relocation in 1963. Many fans and residents know the players by name, stats and even can be seen wearing 76ers gear long after the season is over. But what has been missing in the relationship with the players and Philadelphians who live in the City of Brotherly Love is a connection that goes beyond playing the game of basketball, and that's where the "76ers Crossover: Art Exhibition, presented by Reebok" comes in. This new exhibition is the first step in celebrating the intersection of basketball throughout the city (more to come later on with food, fashion and music) and even across the globe with all of the cultural elements that make Philadelphia unique.

"We talked about how we could be outside the box with the Philadelphia 76ers but also how we could speak to a base, and not just a 76ers fan base," says Desron Dorset, Vice President of Business Development for the 76ers. "We view the 76ers crossover as a celebration of the intersection between the 76ers and what I call the culture of Philadelphia – meaning the art, music, fashion and food. We want to amplify our brand into the culture, and art is that first step."

The art exhibition will display over 200 pieces showcasing the rich history and present atmosphere of the 76ers with contributions by talented artists from 13 countries and locally as well. Guests will get to observe each work of art, focusing on pivotal players and moments from Wilt Chamberlain, to Julius Erving, to the present-day team. Each work of art is unique and completely authentic, and will showcase the beloved enterprise in a new way for audiences.

"We do a great job marketing basketball and the basketball players, but this now gives us the opportunity to really take those principles that we've created and to market our basketball players as humans," adds Dorset.

The "76ers Crossover Exhibition" takes it a step further to see some artists' work in real-time as well. According to the release, throughout the duration of the event, Reebok will live-paint all-white Reebok classics, giving guests the opportunity to witness art being made right in front of their eyes. Red Bull will also be present at the event with an activation station and more.

All of the incredible works of art will be housed in the newly opened Fitler Club, just steps away from 30th Street Station. "We looked at a few different spaces and we thought this space was important because it was open to the public, easily accessible and a short walk from 30th Street Station if you planned on coming in from out of town," says Dorset.

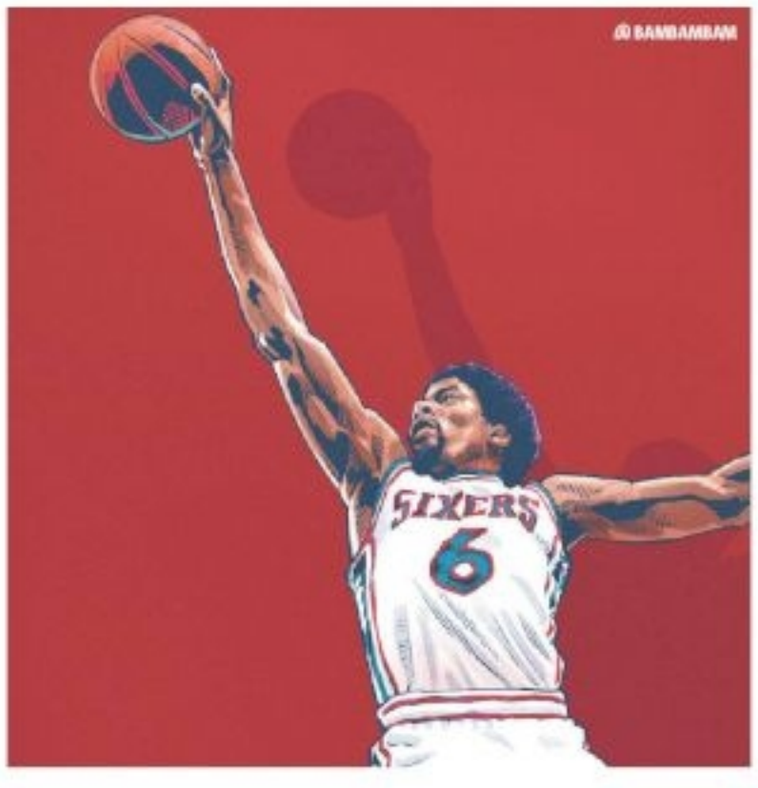
One standout exhibit from the collection includes the use of City Edition-issued jerseys being used as blank canvases for local Philly artists to showcase distinctive designs. The exhibit is curated by the popular social media account known for its inside look into the diversified vibe of Philadelphia on Instagram, @Peopledelphia.

Those jerseys and other works of art will also be available for purchase through a silent auction launching simultaneously with the exhibit through the 76ers app. All proceeds will go to help the Sixers Youth Foundation, helping middle-school-aged youth in Philadelphia and Camden.

"This auction is important for a couple of different reasons. It's a way to direct people to our app as we start to look into the business a little bit further and who our fans are, and most importantly the proceeds go to Sixers Youth Foundation," says Dorset. "This art exhibition gives us an opportunity to generate additional funds for that foundation. We will keep the option to buy open through Nov. 29 which gives folks the chance to digest the show, look at the art and see if they want to purchase any for holidays gifts."

According to the release, fans are encouraged to visit 76ers.com/76ersCrossover and follow the @Sixers on social media for additional information on specific showtimes and details for how they can enjoy the art exhibition.

The "76ers Crossover: Art Exhibition presented by Reebok" will be at the Fitler Club (24 S 24th St.) from Nov. 16 - Nov. 19.



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See Irish art during the special "*Straight Out of Ireland*" exhibition

Mike Brown.

Clare Oconnor. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

More than 30 artists created pieces inspired by Irish crafts and life. MADELINE PRESLAND

Get ready to experience the beauty of the Irish this weekend.

The upcoming "Straight Out of Ireland" exhibition will show a special collection of modern art inspired by Ireland and Irish heritage from Nov. 15-17. Twenty-five Irish artists and 10 American artists joined forces to create this exhibition that shows Ireland's natural beauty, culture and forming a connection to the country through this work. The Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia organized this exhibition to introduce a new take on Irish culture and help establish a new narrative.

"We feel it is important to help people look beyond Ireland as the land of shamrocks and Guinness and see it as a globally trendsetting hub for business, art, fashion and more," said Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia Board President Kathleen Kenneally in a press release.

This art exhibition is a significant first for the Center and opens its programming to embrace more of the arts. The Center, based in Upper Darby, promotes Irish culture and identity for the descendants of Irish immigrants. Their services include Irish passport and citizenship services, genealogy groups to assist with tracking ancestors and a variety of social activities and programs.

For descendants of immigrants, art and other imagery can form a deeper connection between themselves and where their family originated. This exhibition will include textiles, glass, paintings, ceramics and more. The variety of pieces and styles shown in this exhibition reflect both traditional and modern crafts in Ireland. Highlights include gorgeous jewelry, dramatic landscape paintings and abstract oil paintings.

Experience this exhibition before anyone else by attending the VIP Reception & Preview Party on the evening of Nov. 15. Tickets for this reception, which includes an open bar and meet-and-greet with artists, are $150. The art galleries are the focal points for this weekend's exhibition, but there will be other activities to help everyone get involved. Try a jig during the Irish step dancing clinic, learn how to play Gaelic football and see a puppet show during Family Day on Sunday, Nov. 17.

"Straight Out of Ireland" runs from Nov. 15 - Nov. 17 at the Sacred Heart Academy, located at 480 S Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA. Tickets for daytime exhibition hours are $25 in advance or $35 at the door. Children ages 13 and under receive free admission. Visit straightoutofireland.com to purchase tickets.

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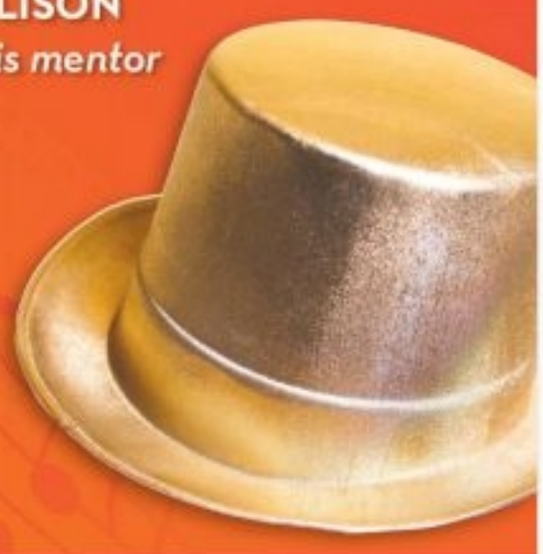

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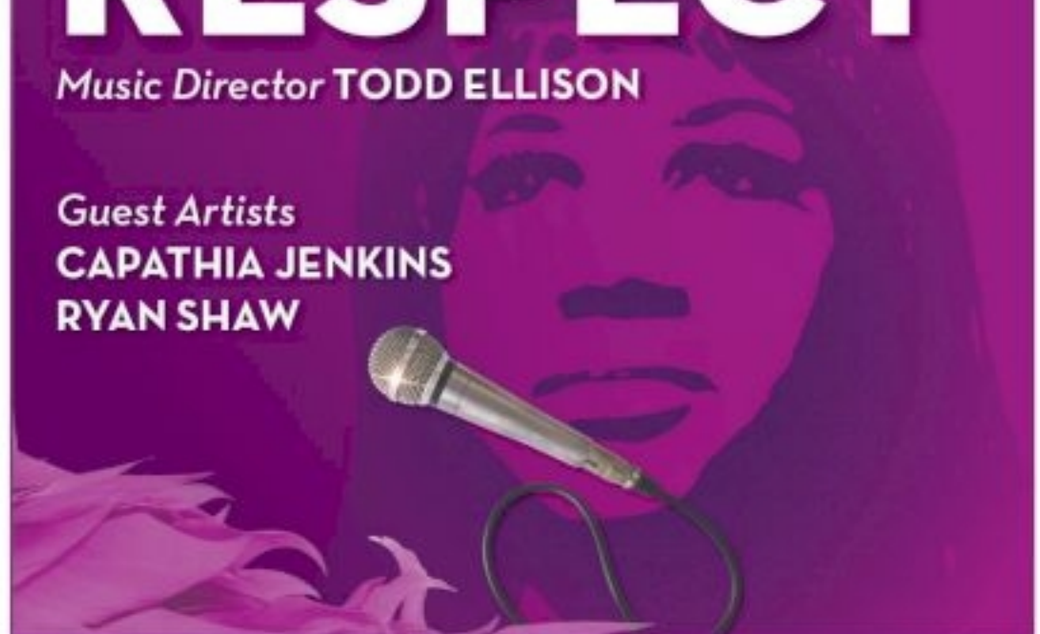

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Alien Nation: Parade 0, designed 2017 by Lisa Hartje Moura for HEAD-Genève (Private Collection) Photograph © HEAD-Genève, Michel Giesbrecht, 2017; *Off We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder*, 1977, by Susanna E. Lewis (Private Collection) Photograph by Otto Stupakoff © Julie Schafler Dale

Finding the light

1812 Productions' annual political comedy 'This Is The Week That Is' hits the stage later this month.

MOLLY GIVEN

2019 has been quite the year, and that certainly calls for some reflection. Philadelphians can do just that in a wildly entertaining way with 1812 Productions' annual political comedy "This Is The Week That Is." The unique production incorporates sketch comedy, musical parodies, and newsdesk style reporting that changes nightly depending on the news happening in real-time. It's this element that has helped cement the show as a must-see and has already gotten audiences buzzing about what this year's edition will hold. Metro sat down with two of the talented performers, Barrymore Award winner Justin Jain (JJ) and Barrymore Award winner Brett Robinson (BR) to get the scoop on the show, their performing styles and how their writer's room is a truly wild place to be right now.

For those who don't know, how would you describe the show?

JJ: "This Is The Week That Is" is humor that sort of takes what we know about what happened in the past year, not only politically, but in the general news, and we try to find the funny in it all. We create sketches based around the things that we find. The sketches are different from what I think "SNL" does best which are parodies, we do incorporate some parody but we also include subversion, some musical acts and audience participation with our very small cast of six. We all portray many different kinds of roles. What we do is very alive and in the room, it's all about play and finding the pleasure underneath all of the awful things that have transpired throughout the year as well as some of the more absurd and funny things.

BR: I would say something similar. This is my first year, but "This Is The Week That Is" often feels like a year-in-review show and does summarize with a particular Philadelphia lens. I think what's so successful about the show is that we really are interested in doing this show for Philadelphians and bringing that local humor and national humor with that sense of flavor and kind of spirit of Philadelphia with it. The cast is so small that we all write and come up with these ideas together. Everyone also sings and plays an instrument, so not only is there a ton of music, there's just a ton of talented performers who can do a lot of things and have written to showcase their own skills.

What is special about this particular style of show for audiences and for you as creative artists?

JJ: I think this form of sketch writing and show allows us to digest, process and find the light in things that are otherwise dark and difficult. It's also to celebrate the things that were really fun and memorable about the past year with the world and also on a local level. There are a lot of jokes that point towards local Philadelphia news that are really fun and lighthearted. We try to have a good balance, we call ourselves equal opportunity offenders in the sense that if we go too far one way we are able to balance it in other ways. Also, it's a way of ending the whole year with this kind of review by opening ourselves up. It really is such a nice way to end the year not with just ourselves as the cast, but with the audience as well. The ensemble also changes every year, so every time the audience comes back they are going to see something different.

BR: As a performer, it really asks you to be elastic and take big bold and creative risks that are really funny— which is always thrilling and always makes you have to think fast and on your feet. The show is written pretty quickly and in real-time, so it creates this kind of electricity in the room. Everyone is together working towards a common goal and that allows you to take comedic risks that you wouldn't naturally do yourself. The more people think about a project, the more angles from all of our different experiences we can bring to it. All of those different senses of humor and sensibilities arise in this work which makes it really thrilling, and audiences will have something in common with at least one of us on stage. It's important to have a writer's room and a group of performers who are diverse with experiences so the audiences knows they

ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

are in good hands and that they will laugh at something from the show because it's true for them.

Justin, since this is your fourth year, is there anything that stands out to you from this year's production?

JJ: One of the main theses that we're teasing out in our writer's room is talking about what is the new normal? The progression that I've followed in the last four years with my first year being the election year with all of the zany candidates, to the next year having a new administration, and then the next year the show responding in shock. So that's why we are teasing the thread of what is the new normal? There's so much in the last two years that we've just accepted as normal: How rapid the news cycle changes, or even how certain things have become normalized now that in previous years have been taboo or even offensive. So this year is very much about understanding, unpacking and looking at the shock at what is normal now versus what was normal then.

Since this is your first year Brett, were there any challenges you didn't anticipate or maybe some things you didn't expect?

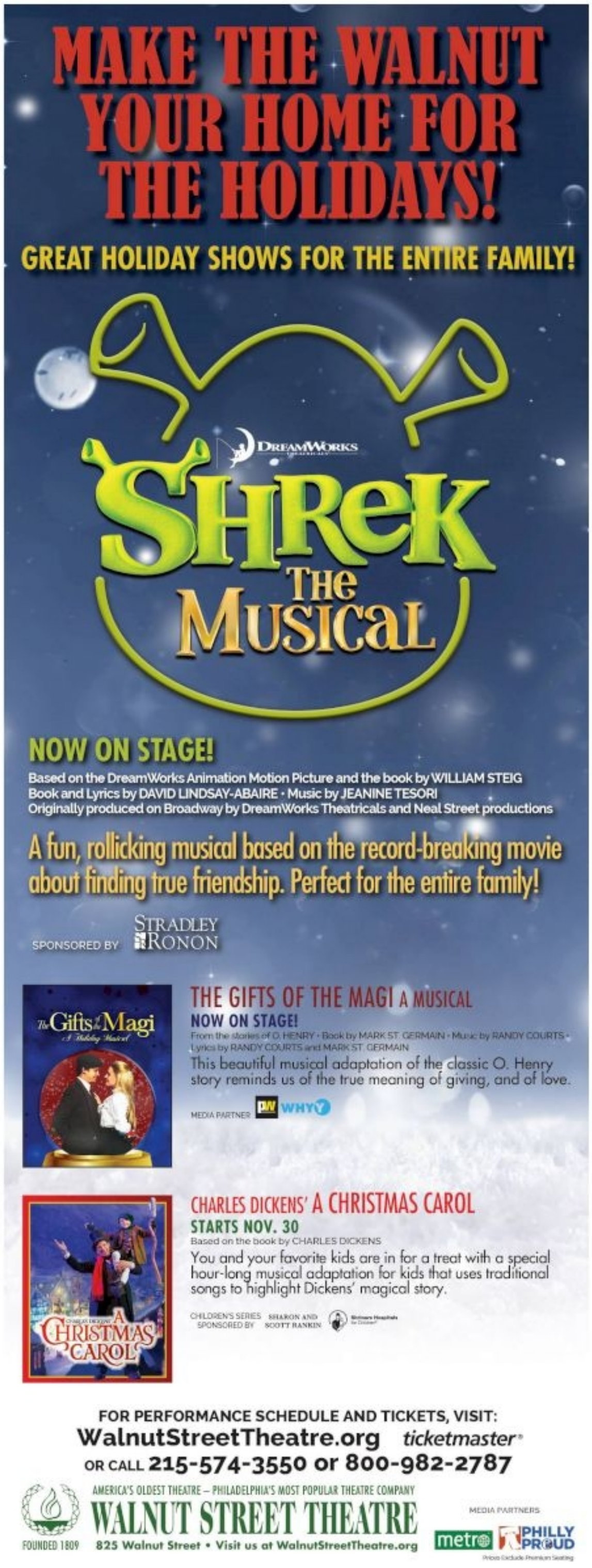
BR: Not necessarily unexpected, but what feels certainly great is that entering into a show like this can feel intimidating, but with a cast that's been doing it for so long, they are so clear on what the vision is. Really all I have to do is to be as creative as I can and to generate as much as I can while trusting that there have been people who have been doing it longer and who I can trust for re-writes and things like that. I'm not surprised, but I'm also thrilled that the room is so generous. Especially when it's filled with a whole bunch of people who love laughing and who love writing comedy. In a way, it's a total gift. I feel like I have permission to go for it as wildly as I want, and I trust that they have their eye on the larger shaping of the show.

Overall what do you hope audiences take away from the show after watching a performance?

JJ: First and foremost that they are entertained and have great fun while they are with us, and that they are able to open up themselves up to thinking about, talking about and laughing at a lot of the things that have been really difficult in the past year. There's so much that can transpire in that theater not only entertainment-wise but also in terms of healing and bringing people together. It can make people step back from the seriousness of it all and try to find some light in the darkness. I also think it's quite a great privilege to be able to be in the room and make comedy out of this material. I have a lot of friends all over the world in China, Barcelona and Turkey, and anytime they even remotely try to do a show kind of political, it ends up with people getting arrested and people getting thrown in jail. Also sometimes learning comes out of it and people learn something new about the world or even Philadelphia.

BR: I really hope people walk away being able to have so enjoyed themselves and have the feeling of being able to laugh at this year and think where they were in those particular moments. Not only politically, but in those technological moments where everything goes so fast. I hope they reflect on this year and remember their year on a personal level because time moves by so quickly. Such as where were you or what were you thinking when Gritty was first announced? I hope seeing those moments on stage elicits those memories for people.

"This Is The Week That Is" will run onstage at 1812 Productions (1714 Delancey St.) Nov. 29- Jan. 5. For more information visit 1812productions.org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4 Events celebrating the arts and culture of Philadelphia this weekend

Metro has the scoop on all of the interesting events happening in Philly. **MOLLY GIVEN**

The work week is finally over, and it's time to unwind and find some time to have fun. This weekend in the City of Brotherly Love holds plenty of opportunities to do just that while also showcasing the rich arts and culture scene that Philadelphia exudes daily.

Artist Bash: Activated Peoples

Head to the Barnes Foundation this Saturday to check out their Artist Bash featuring artists who actively celebrate their histories and identities with a series of colorful performances. According to the release, guests can become part of a living illustration by photographer Shawn Theodore, listen to the lush soundscapes of musician Marina Murayama, watch a modern take on traditional Asian dance by Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers, hear music by Elizabeth Steiner that disrupts stereotypes of classical music and much more. Admission also includes access for guests to explore the Barnes collection and the "30 Americans" exhibition. *Nov. 16, 8 pm-11 pm, Barnes Foundation, 2025 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, Philadelphia, $10, barnesfoundation.org*

Made to Measure Trunk Show

The City of Brotherly Love is full of style, and to celebrate that Philadelphia-based designer Victoria Wright is posting up shop and hosting a trunk show this weekend at the Cherry Hill Mall. Philadelphians can even go a step further with Wright and book a private one-on-one appointment to walk through the design process and be measured for custom made garments such as blouses, dresses, suits and more. Walk-ins are welcome but it is recommended to make an appointment. *Nov. 16, 12 pm-7 pm, Founder's Market at 1776 inside the Cherry Hill Mall 2000 NJ-38, Cherry Hill, NJ, calendly.com/victoria-wright*

Victory Brewing Tailgate

When you think about the culture of Philadelphia, sports are right at the top of the list, and there is no better way to celebrate sports in the City of Brotherly Love than with a tailgate. Philadelphians can head to Victory Brewing Company's Tailgate this weekend to join in on all of the high-energy fun. The tailgate will feature tailgating activities (think precision passing to field goal kicking), plenty of Victory brews being poured from the new Victory Van, delicious food at their grilling station (think hot dogs, hamburgers and more), and a giant TV to watch the 1PM games. *Nov. 17, 11 am, Live Lot at Xfinity Live!, 1100 Pattison Ave, Philadelphia, pay-as-you-go, xfinitylive.com*

Shawn Theodore's work will be highlighted at the Barnes Foundation this weekend. PROVIDED

"Visionary Voices" at the Magic Gardens

Philadelphia's Magic Gardens is debuting its final exhibit of the year this weekend. According to the release, "Visionary Voices" will feature detailed and expressive works by four talented self-taught artists: Chloe Fimiano, Anthony Coleman, Susan Wallack and Jaither West. The works will each express their own take on themes involving politics, empowerment, pop culture and community through the use of paintings, drawings, mixed-media and more. The exhibit will be on display until Feb. 23, 2020, and an opening night reception with all four artists will take place at the Gardens on Nov. 15 from 6 pm-9 pm. *Now- Feb. 23, Magic Gardens, 1020 South St., Philadelphia, prices vary, phillymagicgardens.org*

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5 art exhibitions to see this winter in Philadelphia

Visit a free mural exhibition, see a collection of work from 30 influential African-American artists and more. MADELINE PRESLAND

Heading to a museum or art gallery is the perfect way to spend a chilly day or evening while discovering something new. Here are five art exhibitions to explore this winter.

Off the Wall: American Art to Wear
See textiles that reflect daring art and the changing of the times during the 1960s and 70s. These pieces show how artists use clothing as a canvas, including brightly colored Levis and army vests adorned with toy soldiers. This exhibition is a collection of more than 100 pieces to show the beauty that can arise from chaotic cultural times, such as a quilted cape depicting airplanes and the piece's title "Off We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder" stitched along the hem. This exhibition just opened on Nov. 10 and runs through May 2020. *Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Free for members or $12-25 for non-members, philamuseum.org*

Streets Dept Walls
Ten temporary murals crafted by Philadelphia artists adorn the walls of The Fashion District through New Year's Eve. This collection, curated by Streets Dept founder Conrad Brenner, highlights the connection between Philly artists and the city as a whole. See portraits, abstract paintings and a beautiful crocheted piece that addresses mental health. "I Change" by Nicole Nikolich is a crocheted wreath of leaves with an important reminder to bring awareness to seasonal depression and how to be gentle with yourself this winter. *The Fashion District, 901 Market St., Free, fashiondistrictphiladelphia.com*

Larger image of Kehinde Wiley's "Equestrian Portrait" that's part of the exhibition ar the Barnes. PROVIDED

30 Americans
This exhibition at the Barnes Foundation combines the works of 30 of the most influential African-American artists. The pieces on display as part of "30 Artists" come from the Rubell Family Collection and range across mediums. See paintings, sculptures and mixed media works that tell stories of finding personal and cultural identity in a divisive society. Featured artists include Kehinde Wiley, Lorna Simpson and Jean-Michel Basquiat. This exhibition runs through Jan. 20. *The Barnes Foundation, 2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Free for members or $5-25 for non-members, barnesfoundation.org*

Black: Mourning to Celebration
Go back to basics with this monochromatic exhibition at the Moore. This display shows why women choose to wear black and the color's evolving purpose throughout time. From a design perspective, black garments show the true intricate designs of clothing that can be lost in louder colors or patterns. See garments from the 1840s to the 1990s that show the color's influence on fashion through a range of pieces, including a Quaker mourning dress and World War II-era suits. This exhibition runs from Nov. 23 to Jan. 11. *The Galleries at Moore, 1916 Race St., Free, moore.edu*

Trevor Shimuzu: Performance Artist
See film and other media works by Long Island-based artist Trevor Shimuzu during this free exhibition. Though Shimuzu is more well-known for his paintings, this exhibition explores his passion for creating nostalgic moments that also explore subjects like loyalty and identity through footage that dates back to the 1990s. The way these films are displayed creates a lasting effect. Shimuzu cut canvases to create frames for the devices that play the video. This exhibition runs through Feb. 1. *Institute of Contemporary Art, 118 S 36th St., Free, icaphila.org*

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Nichalas L. Parker and Julia Udine. MARK GAVIN

"I think people will be talking about this production for a while"

Nichalas Parker talks leading role in 'Shrek the Musical.'

MOLLY GIVEN

A reclusive ogre, an energetic donkey, a sassy cookie and an insanely short-tempered (emphasis on the short) wannabe king are hitting the Walnut Street Theatre's stage this season — and those are just a few of the colorful characters included in this new wildly entertaining production. The Walnut's latest show, "Shrek the Musical," based on the book by William Steig and the Oscar-winning 2001 movie, opened this week, and already the wacky fairytale-styled story has had audiences tapping their feet and singing along. Nichalas L. Parker, who plays the grumpy green ogre himself is actually quite familiar with the show, having played the role of Donkey in a different production, but now Parker is excited to take on the challenge of Shrek and to showcase just how deep this hilarious plot can actually be. Parker sat down with Metro to chat about his role, the show and how overall it's best never to judge a book by its cover.

How did you get involved with "Shrek the Musical?"

This is actually the second time I've done "Shrek the Musical," I played the role of Donkey before years ago in a much smaller production. It's just a really fun show and ever since then I have always wanted to test myself with other roles in "Shrek." When I was finishing up my role as Donkey, I was also finishing up my apprenticeship with the Walnut as an acting apprentice, and I've been working ever since then on the main stage with them. They approached me about a year and a half ago and said they would love to have me play Shrek, and now here we are.

What do you like specifically like about the role of Shrek?

It's a challenge for me, and very rarely do I get to have a challenge in a role. I'm used to playing the Donkey character — the guy who's always making someone laugh or who is high energy and all over the place. So it's a change to finally have a role where I have to settle down and focus and be able to connect a little deeper with the character and with the actors on stage. It's really nice to break into that side of my training that I rarely ever get to do.

How do you become the character of Shrek?

Make-up itself takes about 15-20 minutes depending on how specific we are and how much time we have. But altogether to get ready it takes about 30 minutes. It's not a very complicated costume, I guess the worst part about it is the towel that I wear around my neck and throat — that can be a bit restricting. But other than that the costume is very comfortable and very easy to maneuver in.

For fans of the movie, is this a similar story or is it a fresh new take?

It's definitely a fresh new take on the beloved story. If you remember, the original story had a lot of puns when it came to fairytale creatures and nursery rhymes, and I think the musical definitely expands on that and has a lot more fun with it. Not to give away too much, but there are a lot of things in the movie that had to be theatricalized and they actually do it in this production, and it's done really well. So I think that if you love the movie, you'll definitely love the musical.

How would you describe the music in the show?

It's pretty upbeat — it has a ballad here or there but altogether I think people will be tapping their feet and definitely going home singing a couple of new songs. There are a lot of songs that they'll hear for the first time, and I promise you they won't forget them.

Is there any particular song or scene that you're the most excited to perform, or that you have the most fun doing?

There is, there's a scene that involves a lot of farting on stage that I do with Fiona — it's very fun. I love a good fart joke, so when you pack a whole bunch of them in one song, I'm a happy guy.

Overall, what do you hope audiences take away from the show?

I think the main thing they'll take away is to not judge a book by its cover and that not everyone is what they seem. It's not traditional for a black man to play Shrek, so it's stuff along those lines that will make people see that the story is more than what people would expect, especially with the characters and the cast. This is just a really great show and the actors are amazing, we truly get to do some incredible things. I think people will be talking about this production for a while.

"Shrek the Musical" is on stage now at the Walnut Street Theatre (825 Walnut St.) until Jan. 5. For more information, go to walnutstreettheatre.org.

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7 comedy shows to see in Philadelphia this winter

Cure the cold weather blues with these legendary comedians and breakout stars.

MADELINE PRESLAND

Get ready to catch some of the biggest names in comedy performing in Philadelphia this winter.

Jim Norton

It's been a busy year for radio personality, comedian and Ozzy Osbourne superfan Jim Norton. Known for his brutally honest humor, Norton is the co-host of the "Jim & Sam Morning Show" on SiriusXM radio. Recently, Norton also played a young Don Rickles in Martin Scorsese's 2019 film "The Irishman." *Nov. 21-24, Helium Comedy Club, 2031 Sansom St., $30-90, heliumcomedy.com*

Marlon Wayans

Known for his hilarious roles in "White Chicks" and "Scary Movie," Marlon Wayans brings his standup show to the Punchline Philly later this month. Wayans is a veteran in entertainment and comedy with his roles over the years. *Nov. 22-24, Punchline Philly, 33 E Laurel St., $40, punchlinephilly.com*

Phoebe Robinson

With two successful podcasts, a series of specials on HBO and two bestselling books, Phoebe Robinson is at the top of her game. Most commonly known as one of the hosts of podcast-turned-TV-special "2 Dope Queens," Robinson is an acclaimed performer you need to see live during her "Sorry, Harriet Tubman" tour. Find out why she thinks Tubman would be disappointed in her and what it was like for Robinson and co-host Jessica Williams to interview former First Lady Michelle Obama for their show. *Dec. 5-7, Punchline Philly, 33 E Laurel St., $30-40, punchlinephilly.com*

WDAS Holiday Comedy Jam

If you want to be festive but don't enjoy carols or holiday music, this is the event for you. R&B radio station WDAS invites some of their favorite comedians and hosts to perform during this special event, including Nephew Tommy and J. Anthony Brown. *Dec. 20, 8 p.m., The Met Philadelphia, 858 N Broad St., $20-100, themetphilly.com*

"The Guilty Feminist" with Deborah Frances-White

Can you be a perfect feminist? Isn't an image of perfection anti-feminist? Australian comedian and screenwriter Deborah Frances-White may not have the answers, but she's tackling 21st-century feminism one subject at a time. But her personal explorations and interviews with guests show that being "woke" is way more complicated than it seems. Join her for a live recording of her award-winning podcast and an unforgettable show at The Fillmore. *Jan. 7, 8 p.m., The Fillmore, 29 E Allen St., $35-93, thefillmorephilly.com*

Mike Epps

Mike Epps is a comedic legend with roles in films including "The Hangover," "Girls Trip" and "Next Friday." In 2019, Epps appeared in the Netflix feature film "Dolemite Is My Name" and released a new stand-up special with the streaming network. See him live as he addresses some of the things that have been on his mind in his special "Mike Epps: Only One Mike": aging, comedy in the age of the #MeToo movement and education. *Jan. 25, 8 p.m., Parx Casino Xcite Center, 2999 Street Rd., Bensalem, $45-95, parxcasino.com*

Phoebe Robinson. GETTY

Tim & Eric

Comedy duo Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim bring their "Tim and Eric 2020 Mandatory Attendance Tour" to the big stage at the Met. These Temple grads have been performing together for more than 20 years since they started their antics while attending film school. Their show promises the same level of absurdity, destruction and top-secret new spoofs. You'll have to show up to this mandatory meeting to find out what these two have been cooking up for this tour. *Feb. 10, 8 p.m., The Met, 858 N Broad St., $39-188, themetphilly.com*

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the Grumble

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READER WRITE-INS:

FUNERAL PROCESSIONS

My grumble is about funeral processions. I get it, it's extremely tragic and sad that someone's loved one has died. But would it be that hard to simply announce "Okay everyone, let's reconvene at the cemetery on Elm Street at 2:00. See you there!?" And then go ahead and follow the driver if you're not sure of the way, but don't make it a slow, ostentatious, self-important procession that clogs up streets, stops other traffic, and even prohibits pedestrians from using the crosswalk until all 30 or 40 cars have passed through. And if you don't have GPS or a cellphone, ask a friendly stranger for directions – but don't impose your showy spectacle on the rest of us!

Rich, *Boston Metro reader*

ISTOCK

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Don't give in to someone putting pressure on you. Be your own boss, do your own thing and strive for perfection. A personal change will lift your spirits.

Taurus Your instincts will tell you when to make a move. Expressing your views will help you gain respect and support. A meaningful partnership will encourage success.

Gemini Wait for the right moment to make a move. If you act in haste, you will make a mistake. Surround yourself with trustworthy people.

Cancer If you share your feelings, you will get the support and input you need to make your life better. The information you are given will clear up confusion and encourage you to take action.

Leo What you do will have a more significant impact on others than what you say. Take action and do your best to make a difference. Practice what you preach.

Virgo Recognize who and what is right for you, and back away from harmful or negative situations and people. Trust in what's tangible and productive, not in hearsay.

Libra Learn from your mistakes and choose your words wisely. A change at home should be made with the input and approval of those who will be most affected by it.

Scorpio Look for what's coming down the pipeline and make the most out of whatever situation you face. Preparation will give you the edge you need to come out on top.

Sagittarius If you act fast, no one will have a chance to overreact or take advantage of you. Work alone to ensure that you minimize interference and promote productivity.

Capricorn Don't fight change. Once you see what's available, it will spark your imagination and help you make choices that excite you.

Aquarius Don't complain. If you want something done, do it yourself. Your actions will count. Express your feelings and treat others the way you want to be treated. Romance is encouraged.

Pisces Take care of contracts, money matters and home improvements. Teach people who don't understand what you are trying to accomplish. Share your story, intentions and time.

EUGENIA LAST

Student gunman kills two, wounds three at California high school before shooting self

Attack took place on shooter's 16th birthday.

First responders at Saugus High School after a school shooting occurred Thursday, November 14, 2019. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Students embrace at a nearby park after being evacuated from Saugus High School after a shooting at the school.

A California high school student pulled a .45 caliber semiautomatic handgun from his backpack and fired on fellow students as classes began on Thursday, killing two and wounding three others.

He saved the last bullet for himself. It was his 16th birthday.

The teenaged gunman survived the self-inflicted gunshot to the head and was in grave condition, law enforcement officials said. Investigators were still searching for what drove the student toward the rampage at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, about 40 miles north of Los Angeles.

Saugus now joins an ever growing list of schools remembered as sites of gun tragedies, such as Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, Columbine High School in Colorado and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Florida.

"How do we come out of tragedy? We need to say 'No more!' This is a tragic event. It happens too frequently," said Captain Robert Lewis of Santa Clarita Valley sheriff's station, striking an emotional note in an otherwise somber news conference.

The killer remained unidentified. Police only described him as Asian, and said he acted alone. They searched his family home and found no further danger.

The two students killed were a 16-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy. Two other girls, aged 14 and 15, were wounded, as was a 14-year-old boy, Captain Kent Wegener of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department told a news conference.

"Video clearly shows the subject in the quad, withdraw a gun from his backpack, shoot and wound five people and then shoot himself," Wegener said.

The incident marked yet another mass shooting in the United States in recent years, intensifying the debate about gun control and the constitutional right for citizens to keep and bear arms.

This is at least the 85th incident of gunfire on school grounds this year, according to Everytown, an advocacy group for stricter gun laws.

Sean Murillo, 17, a football player at Saugus High School, said he was walking toward his coach's office when he heard shots about 10 feet away and ducked into a classroom and waited.

Murillo later met his mother at a designated point for parents and students to reunite at Santa Clarita's Central Park.

"There's no feeling of safety until he's in your arms," said his mother, Mercedes Rodriguez.

Taylor Hardges reported seeing people running in the hallways shouting "Run!" She raced into a classroom, where a teacher barricaded the room.

"We've had drills. It doesn't prepare you for the real thing," she said after reuniting with her father at Central Park.

Her father, Terrence Hardges, said Taylor texted him from inside the classroom. He said he was casually scrolling through his texts when he saw it and it made his heart race.

"She said 'I love you. I'm pinned in a room. We're locked in,'" Terrence Hardges said.

REUTERS

JUMP INTO PHILLY'S FALL LEAF RECYCLING PROGRAM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 THROUGH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21.

During the six-week program, bagged leaf drop-off will be offered city-wide on Saturdays only (except for November 16th and 30th) from 9 AM to 3 PM at the 13 locations listed. Mechanical leaf collection will be offered in areas with a high concentration of leaves.

Bagged leaf drop-off collection tips:

- Leaves must be placed in large brown biodegradable paper bags.
- Never mix trash or other recyclables with bagged leaves.

Mechanical collection area tips:

- Have leaves ready for collection by 7am Monday for each week of mechanical collection.
- If possible, move your vehicle to an off-street location on your scheduled collection day.

For drop-off details and collection schedules, call 311 or visit PHILADELPHIASTREETS.COM/LEAVES

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- Pennway St. & Cottman Ave. (Jardel Rec.)
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- 43rd St. & Powelton Ave.
- 4800 Wayne Ave. (Happy Hollow Rec. Ctr.)
- 54th St. & Woodbine Ave.
- 7901 Ridgeway St. (Fox Chase Rec.)
- American St. & Thompson St.
- Broad St. & Christian St.
- Castor Ave. & Foulkrod St.
- Cathedral Rd. & Ridge Ave.
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- Washington Ln. & Ardleigh St.

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Fire deaths have increased in Philly, leading the Fire Department to increase recruits

The graduating class includes 121 new hires for the fire department.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

Statistics show that more people have died in Philly fires this year than in any other time besides 2014.

To combat the increase of fire deaths, Philly has upped the number of firefighters they have hired. This is the 196th class of new firefighters coming out of Philly.

The graduating class of Philly firefighters includes 121 members, which allows for the department to open up stations that have been previously closed. NBC reports that this graduating class will help re-open somewhere between four to seven stations that were closed in 2009.

Philadelphia Fire Department.
FACEBOOK

Engines 1 and 8 in Center City, Engine 14 in Frankford and Engine 39 in Roxborough will begin operations as soon as Nov. 23.

NBC reports that the causes of the fires that have led to 32 deaths in 2019 include cooking mishaps, lack of working smoke alarms and faulty electrical wiring. This sharp increase in deaths in 2019 defies a previous pattern of improvement: 2018 had 19 deaths, 2017 had 20 deaths and 2016 had 21 deaths, the department reported.

According to phila.gov, in order to get a smoke alarm, you can request it via 311, or you can request it using a Philly311 form. The fire department says that residents should have an alarm on each floor of their homes, including in basements.

Phila.gov explains that you are eligible to receive a smoke alarm if, "...you live in the City of Philadelphia in a one- or two-family home that is occupied by the owner. If you live in an apartment building, or are renting a house, the landlord must provide smoke alarms on every level of the home.

"If your landlord has not provided smoke alarms, call Philly311 to report the violation. It might take up to 60 days from the time of your request until the actual installation."

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Vigil held for 10-year old fighting for his life

Last week, a ten-year-old boy was shot in the head on his way home from school.

The ten-year-old boy, Semaj O'Branty, was shot on Nov. 6, while walking home from school in the Frankford area of Philly.

On Wednesday night, church members held a prayer vigil for the boy who is still in the hospital. Before they made it to the scene, church members walked and sang, arm in arm.

ABC reports that Semaj O'Branty is in bad shape, and may not be able to walk again.

Captain John Walker, with the Philadelphia Police Department, told ABC, "We haven't gotten many tips at this point. We're concerned about that." And the suspect driving the red Pontiac G6 is still at large.

However, the boy's uncle has been charged. He returned fire at the Pontiac.

The uncle is 22-year-old Ernest Richardson. ABC reports that his charges include: possession of an instrument of crime and violations of the uniform firearms act and recklessly endangering another person.

Police reported that the shooting was drug-related.

Walker told ABC, "We're hopeful with the amount of people who showed up here tonight. We're hopeful for more energy and to try to get these people off the street."

Anyone with tips is urged to call Philly PD at 215-686-TIPS.

Sadly, this is not the first case of children suffering from gun violence-related issues within the past few weeks. O'Branty and another 11-month-old child are in the hospital recovering from gunfire, but other children did not make it.

Nikolette Rivera was shot by men targeting her father. Leslie Woodson was killed and shot by his half-brother, in West Philly. And sisters Damaya Alcindor and Maxillie Alcindor were allegedly killed by their mother.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER

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WHEN: Tuesday, November 19
12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

WHERE: Center in the Park
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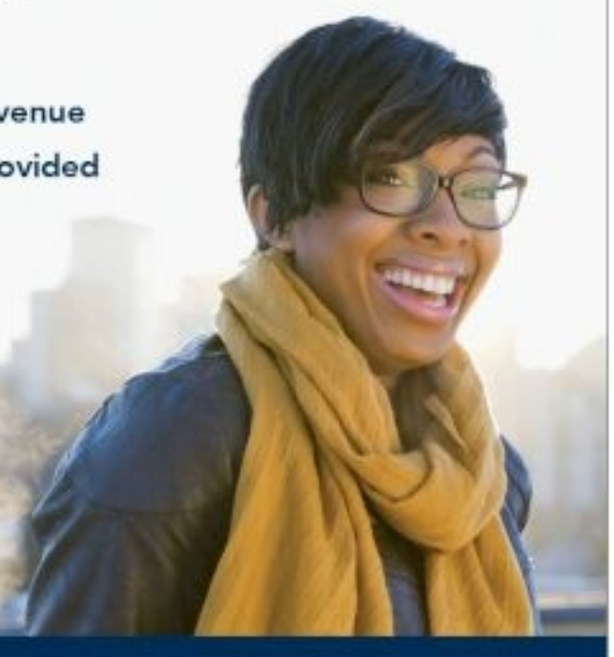
INFO: Light refreshments provided



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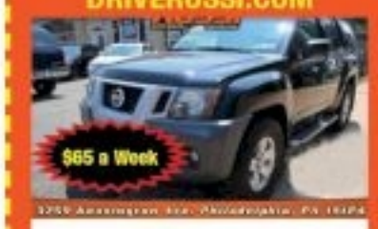

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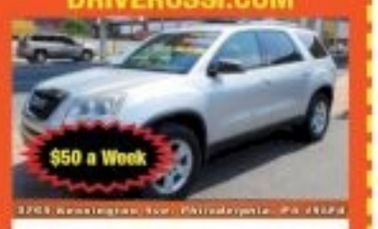

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Pelosi says Trump has admitted to bribery as impeachment probe intensifies

Controversy over alleged withholding of $391 million in security aid.

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Thursday President Donald Trump already has admitted to bribery in the Ukraine scandal at the heart of a Democratic-led inquiry, accusing him of an impeachable offense under the U.S. Constitution.

"The bribe is to grant or withhold military assistance in return for a public statement of a fake investigation into the elections. That's bribery," Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, told a news conference the day after the first public hearing in the impeachment inquiry she announced in September.

"What the president has admitted to and says it's 'perfect,' I say it's perfectly wrong. It's bribery," Pelosi said.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. REUTERS

Democrats are looking into whether the Republican president abused his power by withholding $391 million in U.S. security aid to Ukraine as leverage to pressure Kiev to conduct two investigations that would benefit him politically. The money, approved by Congress to help a U.S. ally combat Russia-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country, was later provided to Ukraine.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing.

Another central figure – former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch – is due to testify on Friday in the second public hearing in the inquiry.

The inquiry threatens Trump's presidency even as he seeks re-election in November 2020. If the House approves articles of impeachment – formal charges – against Trump, the Senate would then hold a trial on whether to convict him and remove him from office. Republicans control the Senate and have shown little support for Trump's removal.

Pelosi's comments could offer a preview of articles of impeachment Democrats might put forward. At her news conference, she also said Trump's administration had committed "obstruction of Congress" by blocking testimony of officials summoned to testify in the inquiry.

The Constitution states that impeachable offenses include "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors." Democrats have begun to use the words bribery or attempted bribery in discussing Trump's actions. According to precedent, obstruction could be another article of impeachment.

Republicans have said House Democrats already have decided to pass articles of impeachment, but Pelosi denied that was the case, saying the inquiry must play out before any decision can be made.

The focus of the inquiry is a July 25 phone call in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden and the former vice president's son Hunter, who had served as a board member for a Ukrainian energy company called Burisma. REUTERS

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Bolivia interim president says ex-leader Morales to be barred from next election

Bolivia's interim President said on Thursday that Evo Morales would not be welcome to take part in new elections, after the long-standing leftist leader resigned and fled to Mexico amid rising pressure over vote-rigging allegations.

Jeanine Anez, 52, who took over on Tuesday, is battling to bring calm to a sharply divided Bolivia that has been rocked by protests since the Oct. 20 election, which was won by Morales but marred by widespread allegations of fraud.

Morales resigned on Sunday after a damning audit found electoral irregularities and the military withdrew its backing and urged him to step down to help restore calm to the country. Morales and his vice president Alvaro Garcia, who also resigned, are now in Mexico, which offered them asylum.

Former President of Bolivia Evo Morales. GETTY IMAGES

"Evo Morales does not qualify to run for a fourth term. It's because (he did) that we've had all this convulsion, and because of this that so many Bolivians have been demonstrating in the streets," Anez told a news conference on Thursday.

The conservative former senator said Morales' Movement for Socialism (MAS) party, which has a majority in Congress, was welcome to participate in the vote.

"They should start searching for a candidate," she said.

Anez did not give a specific date for the election, but under the constitution she has 90 days to do so since declaring herself interim leader by invoking the constitutional line of succession earlier this week.

Morales has said he was the victim of a coup, with his supporters continuing to agitate on his behalf with marches and skirmishes in the streets of La Paz and nearby El Alto.

Meanwhile, Anez is shoring up her position. She has appointed a new military chief and cabinet members, while MAS lawmakers seemed to have backed away from plans to try to nullify her interim appointment.

Russia, a key ally for Bolivia under Morales, said it would work with Anez. REUTERS

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Pompeo urges coalition to take back Islamic State detainees, boost funding

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday urged members of the coalition fighting Islamic State to take jihadi detainees back to their countries and step up their funding to help restore infrastructure in Iraq and Syria, parts of which were severely damaged by conflict.

Mike Pompeo. REUTERS

"Coalition members must take back the thousands of foreign terrorist fighters in custody, and impose accountability for the atrocities they have perpetrated," Pompeo said at the opening of a meeting of foreign ministers from the global coalition to defeat Islamic State.

Islamic State has lost almost all of its territory in Iraq and Syria. Former leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in a U.S. raid last month, but experts and allies worry that the militant group remains a security threat in Syria and beyond.

Some 10,000 Islamic State detainees and tens of thousands of family members remain in camps and prisons in northeastern Syria guarded by the Syrian Kurdish allies of the United States. Washington is pushing European countries to take their citizens back, but so far they have been reluctant to do so.

Pompeo also asked coalition members to help fill the gap in funding to restore essential services and rebuild critical infrastructure in Iraq to facilitate the return of millions of displaced Iraqis.

"We will need help likewise in northeast Syria," he said.

Since his announcement last December that he would pull all U.S. troops out of Syria, President Donald Trump has softened plans after a backlash from Congress, who say he enabled a long-threatened Turkish incursion on Oct. 9 against Kurdish forces in Syria. The Kurds had been America's top allies in the battle against Islamic State since 2014.

Since then, Trump has agreed to keep a residual force in the northeastern part of the country, focusing on preventing Islamic State from staging a comeback and attacking the oil fields there. Washington is also keeping control of the air space.

Speaking at the opening of the same event, NATO Secretary-General Jen Stoltenberg also touched on the threat Islamic State still poses. "The fight is not over. ISIS is still a threat. The situation in northeastern Syria remains fragile and difficult."

Pompeo also said there were growing concerns about the threat of Islamic State outside of Iraq and Syria, and in places like West Africa and the Sahel. He said the United States was planning to hold a specific coalition meeting to focus on boosting support for those areas. REUTERS

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To satisfy the owner's storage lien, PS Orange Co. Inc. will sell at public lien sale on **November 19th and 20th, 2019,** the personal property in the below-listed occupants' leased spaces, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 10:00 AM and continue until all units are sold.

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Time: 11/19/2019 - 10:00 AM

1049 - Hill, Bridgette; 1084 - Montalvo, Gexon; 1095 - Caro, Victoria; 1171 - Briscoe, Simant; 1183 - Ayi-Kumi, Jemima; 1195 - Latimore, Sharon; 1202 - Shiffler, Helen; 1243 - Brown, Shane; 1259 - Devery, Kimberley; 1269 - Rodriguez, Marybell; 2093 - Leach, Beatrice; 2103 - Coleman, Tevin; 2217A - Nalencz, Thomas; 2250 - Cooper, Saleem; 2267 - Decasanova, Julissa; 2317 - Harris, Nylgara; 2339 - Battiste, Steven; 3201 - EMERY, JASMINE; 3341 - Rios, Bianca; 3365 - Doyle, Damian; 3400 - Barefield, Edward; 3402 - Kresse, Jackie; 3425 - Brown, Shameka; 4029 - Antoine, Jewell; 4033 - Burnside, Samuel; 4068 - Williams, Delores; 4074 - Harris, Rachael; 4082 - Lusunari, Luis; 4101 - Sumara, Katarzyna

PUBLIC STORAGE # 29145, 2190 Wheatsheaf Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 309-8042
Time: 11/19/2019 - 11:00 AM

A076 - Wagner, Robert; A106 - Martinez, Carmen; A183 - Negron Jr, Daniel; A205 - Yost, Danielle; B003 - Meronyck, Vittorio; B013 - Martinez, Carmen; B053 - Nuttall, Debbie; B145 - Morales, Carmen; C003 - Dickerson, Nicole; D006 - Sula, Afirm; E002 - Torres Ortiz, Lercy; E006 - Dreher, Charlie; E061 - Scarborough, Robert; E099 - Blumberg, Richard

PUBLIC STORAGE # 24417, 6301 Tacony Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135, (215) 309-8025
Time: 11/19/2019 - 12:00 PM

A045 - Cossom, Natasha; B147 - KEMP, ANTOINETTE; B200 - Jones, Naimah; C219 - Cheeseman, Anthony; C237 - Slater, Juma; C270 - Mckeever, Linda; C283 - Ibrahim, Elhadi; C291 - Pearson, Ayana; C300 - Morris, Demitre; C350 - Drains, Daniel; D368 - Moment, Indirah; D397 - Jefferson, Charles; D430 - Jefferson, Charles

PUBLIC STORAGE # 21808, 7571 Ridge Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19128, (215) 309-8006
Time: 11/20/2019 - 10:30 AM

C003 - Tate, Jonathan; C026 - Tate, Jeanine; C029 - Davis, Jessica; C031 - Smith-Goodman, Lisa; C043 - Saunders, Catherine; C116 - Mahlais, Kathy; D072 - Kettler, Alan; D100 - Connolly, Jennifer; D149 - Brown, Mark O.; D161 - Miller, Joe; D210 - Crescenzo, Michael; D233 - Kim, Krystal; E001 - HOLLY, RANDAL; E072 - BASANTES, JANETTE

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23222, 1431 Ivy Hill Road, Philadelphia, PA 19150, (215) 309-8053
Time: 11/20/2019 - 11:30 AM

A109 - Holland, Billie; A145 - Gorden, Jill; A209 - Jones, Jeneine; A218 - Rice, John; C516 - McDowell, Elisha; C539 - Paige, Aubrey; C541 - Clark, Melony; C634 - Stanford, Marc; D721 - Hill, Candace; D839 - Christmas, Taylor; E1012 - Frazier, Robert; E913 - Perry, Daniel; E914 - Lawson, Nicholas; F1120 - Riley, Gina; F1137 - Starkes, James; F1234 - Curry, Larry; G1326 - Hardee, Jacqueline; G1345 - Brown, Kiyona; G1401 - Key, John; G1429 - Reeves, Christine; G1430 - Powell, Yvonne; H1521 - King Lane, Khadijah; H1530 - Chasten, Daniel; H1634 - Johnson, Evelyn

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23216, 6225 Oxford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111, (215) 253-6093
Time: 11/20/2019 - 12:30 PM

A109 - Delvalle, Zuenied; A332 - Tetlow, Sarah; A333 - Williams, Lauren; A413 - Taylor Jr, James; A415 - Rivas, Mileyshka; A420 - Castro, Jose; A527 - Burney, Constance; A597 - Harris, Jamila; A622 - Colon, Rose; A634 - Thomas, Genea; A636 - Lee, Hampton; A640 - Brown, Braheem; A752 - Scruggs, Lawrence; A770 - Compton, Kevin; A776 - Barnes, Sesn; A825 - Smietana, Crista; A879 - Mosley, Jonathan; B1417 - Brevard, Jane; B1421 - Dixon, Rebecca; B1524 - Purnell, Marcus; B1646 - Garvin, Shanique; B1715 - Graham, Jessica; B1728 - Travis, Maya; B1812 - Odena, Holly; C2105 - Johnson, Robert; C2128 - Rhett, Shauante; C2424 - Watson, Angela; C2632 - PAYTON, TIFFANY; C2717 - Klee, Yeatay; C2936 - Brookshaw, Jennifer

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Julio Felix Roman A105 — Brian Davis J030
Tameeka Dawson B111 — Donna Pike K109
Sibee Blackshear C215 — Chantay Ervin L142
Christian Lopez D341 — Nathaniel Mapp M112A
O.G. Bridges, JR E409 — Chris Tornatta M136
Steven Hernandez E431 — Brenda Aediger M137
Jazlyn Santos P408 — Ade Evans M139
Ava Charles G615 — George Doran, JR R910
Andrea Pitts G628 — Josephine Rento R917
Alba Rios G852 — Matikia Craddle R945
Deandrin Magdaleno B21 — Miguel Pedraza Martinez S706
Shaneeka Saldana B27 — Loraine Medina T300
Sirena Ollison J901 — Michael Aston Harden T873
Mark Etheridge J926 — Kenneth Okagbeni V114

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to the lien granted by the Pennsylvania Self-Storage Facility Act, notice is hereby given that the undersigned self-storage units will be sold at a public sale by competitive bidding, to satisfy the lien of the Lessor, with Metro Storage LLC as managing agent for Lessor, for rental and other charges due from the undersigned. The said property has been stored and is located at the respective address below. Units up for auction will be listed for public bidding on-line at www.StorageTreasures.com, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (License AU005857) on behalf of the facilities' management, beginning five days prior to the scheduled auction date and time. The terms of the sale will be by lot to the highest bidder for cash only. A 10% buyer's premium will be charged per unit. All sales are final. Metro Self Storage LLC reserves the right to withdraw any or all units, partial or entire, from the sale at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. All contents must be removed completely from the property within 48 hours or sooner or are deemed abandoned by bidder/buyer. Sale rules and regulations are available at the time of sale.
Property includes the storage unit contents belonging to the following tenants at the following locations:

Metro Self Storage 4440 E Bristol Rd, Trevose, PA 19053
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Kathleen Dolbow 1034, Todd Clark 1080, Thomas Pico 1110, Thomas Casalenuovo 2359, Lisa Polisano 2401

Metro Self Storage 1145 Easton Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090
215-659-6065
The bidding will close on the website StorageTreasures.com and a high bidder will be selected on 11/21/19 at 2:30pm.
Hazel Patterson 151, Natasha Gaines 622, Hazel Patterson c/o Amelia Patterson 151

Metro Self Storage 1634 Mearns Road, Warminster, PA 18974
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Johanna Sisto C31C, Michael Blake WC022

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Hamas leadership at odds over escalation in southern Israel

Leaders of the Hamas terrorist group in the Gaza Strip are reportedly at loggerheads over whether to join the Palestinian Islamic Jihad-instigated fighting against Israel or refrain from adding fuel to the fire, a senior official affiliated with Gaza's rulers told Israel Hayom.

Hamas military leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar reportedly prefers not to provoke Israel, while the majority of the group's senior officials think the Islamist terrorist group should join the fray.

The latest flare-up followed the targeted killing of top Palestinian Islamic Jihad commander Baha Abu al-Ata on Tuesday, for which the Iranian-backed terrorist group vowed an "unprecedented response."

Since Tuesday morning, Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists have fired over 250 rockets at Israel. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that the Iron Dome missile defense system has intercepted over half of the rockets, with the majority of the rest hitting open areas.

Israeli sappers carry the remains of a rocket in Kiryat Gat in southern Israel on Tuesday. REUTERS

According to various reports in Arab and Palestinian media, Egyptian officials, who have been trying to mediate a cease-fire, are "the only ones keeping Hamas at bay."

This is proving to be a very problematic task, as the Islamic Jihad, an Iranian proxy, has publicly announced that it would not heed Cairo's orders to halt its fire, making it increasingly difficult for Hamas to rein it in.

Senior Hamas officials in Gaza have been lambasting Sinwar and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh over their reluctance to back Islamic Jihad's assault on Israel, saying that the pressure may get to Sinwar.

As head of Izzadin al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing, he has the power to decide whether Hamas will harness its considerable arsenal to serve local rival Palestinian Islamic Jihad's campaign against Israel.

"In the past, it would fall to [former Hamas strongman] Khaled Mashal to decide on such things and he would have the final say," a Hamas official told Israel Hayom.

"Unfortunately, Ismail Haniyeh is no Khaled Mashal and he is powerless to make Sinwar abide by the political bureau's position on the matter, which supports joining Islamic Jihad in the fight," he said.

DANIEL SIRYOTI AND SHAHAR KLAIMAN

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

Before we get to the Eagles versus Patriots betting preview, I should remind you about the best current offer in PA and NJ sports betting – a limited-time offer to obtain a free $50 VISA gift card and up to $250 in risk-free bonus money at **MetroBet.us/Sugar.**

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The spread for the Eagles – Patriots game this Sunday hasn't budged all week as it's stuck on Pats -3.5

Bettors have been hesitant to back the Birds here due to several factors.

First, the Patriots are coming off of a loss as well as a bye. Bill Belichick has had two full weeks to tell his team how putrid it is, and New England usually responds very well following a game in which they were embarrassed.

In Belichick's 20 seasons in New England, the Patriots have lost the game before their bye week four times. They are 3-1 in the games that immediately follow, and they haven't lost one since 2002 (the last and only time a team quarterbacked by Tom Brady missed the playoffs).

Second, is that Patriots revenge factor stemming from Super Bowl LII.

Belichick is certainly one to hold grudges as recent history bears out.

Here are the Patriots' three most recent post-season losses prior to Super Bowl LII: 2015 at Denver, 2013 at Denver, 2012 vs. Baltimore.

The Pats met those teams the very next season following the loss, beating the 2016 Broncos in Denver (16-3), toppling the 2014 Broncos in Foxboro (43-21) and blasting the 2013 Ravens in Baltimore (41-7).

The Eagles should be able to run the ball on the Pats in this one, as New England's defense is susceptible to big running gains, and Miles Sanders and Jordan Howard are now finding their grooves. This should keep the clock moving quickly, which makes the Under appealing when betting this game.

New England also no longer has an explosive offense with Brady now 42 years old. Brady is just 17th in the NFL in passer rating (93.1) and you'd have to go all the way back to Week 1 to find a game in which the Pats put up 30-plus points against a quality defense (Pittsburgh).

Staying away from the spread here, and going with the total.

The play: Under 44.5 points (-110)

ALL GETTY IMAGES

TWEET OF THE DAY

Ben Fawkes
@BFawkesESPN

The Patriots (8-1 SU, 6-3 ATS) and Cowboys (5-4 SU, 5-4 ATS) are the only two NFL teams to be favored in every game this season.

Best bets

NFL Week 11 betting: Jets at Redskins

The New York Jets are in position to earn their third victory of the year, all over NFC East teams, when they face the dreadful Washington Redskins at FedEx Field on Sunday afternoon.

Bet on this game now at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** and get a free $50 VISA gift card and up to $250 in free betting cash.

Washington's offense has scored nine or fewer points in five of their last six games; a truly embarrassing statistic. Rookie quarterback Dwayne Haskins being anointed the starter for the rest of the season will probably only hurt the team going forward, as he's completed barely above 60 percent of his throws in three appearances for 6.5 yards per attempt with four INTs and no TDs to date. The Jets' defense is a respectable eighth in yards allowed per play.

The Redskins are historically poor off a bye week, going 2-9 against the spread in their last 11 games in this spot. "Gang Green" brings the league's worst offense by yards per play into this matchup, but Washington's 17th-rated defense in that department should bend just enough for the Jets to secure the victory.

The play: Jets +1.5

ROBERT CRISCOLA

VSiN DAILY LINE

NFL WEEK 11

NE PATRIOTS -3.5 AT PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

BUFFALO BILLS -6.5 AT MIAMI DOLPHINS

DALLAS COWBOYS -4.5 AT DETROIT LIONS

DENVER BRONCOS AT MINNESOTA VIKINGS -10.5

HOUSTON TEXANS AT BALTIMORE RAVENS -4

ARIZONA CARDINALS AT SAN FRAN 49ERS -9.5

CHICAGO BEARS AT LA RAMS -6.5

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Eagles look to stay hot in SB LII rematch vs. Pats

Philly meets Tom Brady and the Patriots on Sunday.

JOVAN ALFORD
letters@metro.us

With only six weeks left in the 2019 NFL regular season, the Philadelphia Eagles (5-4) are still in the thick of the NFC East race despite having a bye last week.

The Eagles will be looking for their third-straight win on Sunday afternoon as they take on Tom Brady and the New England Patriots at Lincoln Financial Field (4:25 p.m. ET, CBS).

The last time these two teams played each other was back in Super Bowl LII, when the Eagles defeated the Patriots 41-33. New England, who is also coming off of a bye week, will be looking to return the favor on Sunday.

However, unlike the Patriots, the Eagles are coming into this weekend's game on a hot streak.

After suffering an ugly loss to the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday night in Week 7, Philadelphia defeated their next two opponents (Bills, Bears) by a combined score of 53-27.

In both of those games, the Eagles established the running game, while also shutting down the opposing team's running backs on defense.

When it comes to New England, they are coming off an ugly performance a couple of weeks ago on Sunday Night Football, losing to the Baltimore Ravens, 37-20.

The once undefeated Patriots got blitzed by Baltimore's defense and had no answer for MVP candidate Lamar Jackson and their running game.

That being said, will the Eagles try to replicate what the Ravens did on offense to slow down the Patriots' stingy defense? Or will Brady and Co. end Philadelphia's short two-game winning streak?

To answer those questions and more, here are a couple of things to watch out for in this Super Bowl rematch:

ESTABLISHING THE GROUND GAME

If the Eagles want to come away with their third-straight win and second of this month on Sunday. They must continue to run the ball with running backs Jordan Howard and Miles Sanders.

In their last two wins, Philadelphia is averaging 182 rushing yards per game. Howard ran for 178 yards and two touchdowns, while Sanders contributed 116 yards and a touchdown.

It seems like every time the Eagles have won a game this season, their running game has played an integral role.

On Sunday, they will be going up against a New England defense that has had some issues stopping the run this season. Despite only giving up 99 rushing yards per game, the Patriots have allowed four teams to eclipse the century mark this season (Ravens, Browns, Bills and Redskins).

Therefore, Eagles head coach Doug Pederson should make a concerted effort to run the football and force the Patriots to load up the box.

ALL EYES ON GILMORE

Along with running the football, Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz must not make any ill-advised throws on Sunday because the Patriots' secondary will make him pay.

This season, New England's pass defense is only allowing 150.2 yards per game, which is good for second in the NFL. Only the San Francisco 49ers, who were also undefeated, have a better pass defense.

Furthermore, the Pats' defense has forced opposing quarterbacks into throwing a league-leading 19 interceptions, while holding them to a 54.1 completion percentage.

One of the main reasons why New England's pass defense is having this season is because of the play of veteran cornerback Stephon Gilmore.

The 29-year-old defensive back is one of the best corners in the NFL and has three interceptions through nine games this season. Out of all the Patriots' defensive backs, Gilmore has been targeted an astounding 57 times.

However, he has not given up a single receiving touchdown this season and has a 52.6 completion percentage allowed on targets. Simply put, do not throw the ball to his side of the field.

It will be interesting to see who Gilmore will be covering on Sunday as wide receiver Alshon Jeffery is dealing with an ankle injury. If Jeffery is not 100 percent, then the Eagles' passing game could be in some serious trouble.

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Report: Mets' Beltran played 'key role' in Astros' sign-stealing scheme

The new manager of Philly's division rival is already facing some trouble.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Carlos Beltran stands between General Manager Brodie Van Wagenen and COO Jeff Wilpon. GETTY IMAGES

Carlos Beltran is already facing controversy two weeks into his stint as manager of the New York Mets — even though it has nothing to do with his current organization.

A follow-up report by The Athletic's Ken Rosenthal and Evan Drellich revealed that Major League Baseball's investigation into the Houston Astros' sign-stealing system will include interviews with Astros skipper AJ Hinch, Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora — who was the bench coach of the Astros in 2017 — and Beltran.

It is believed Beltran and Cora played "a key role" in the system that saw the Astros steal signs electronically, which included placing a camera in center field that would relay information to the Houston dugout.

A clubhouse attendant would see the signs on a television monitor set up just steps from the Astros dugout and would bang on a trash can to help alert the batter of upcoming pitches, per Rosenthal and Drellich.

The new Mets manager was a veteran presence on the 2017 World Series-winning Astros, where he was credited as a mentor to a crop of young hitters that included George Springer, Carlos Correa and Jose Altuve.

Those glowing reviews from those players were a big reason why Beltran was considered a hot, new managerial candidate that ultimately wound up with the Mets.

Beltran built a reputation during his playing days as an offensive mastermind that was able to pick up on the opposing pitcher's tendencies and any possible tips that were revealed.

It turns out, though, it might have been more than that.

The 42-year-old texted a statement to Rosenthal and Drellich in an attempt to clear things up:

"We took a lot of pride studying pitchers in the computer — that is the only technology that I use and I understand. It was fun seeing guys get to the ballpark to look for little details. [In] the game of baseball, guys for years have given location and if the catchers get lazy and the pitcher doesn't cover the signs from second base, of course, players are going to take advantage. I don't call that cheating. I call that using the small details to take advantage. I think baseball is doing a great job adding new technology to make sure the game is even for both teams."

Stealing signs is not illegal in Major League Baseball, but using electronics to aid such acts is.

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Phillies eyeing Dillon for hitting coach

GETTY IMAGES

The Philadelphia Phillies lost out on their top choice of hitting coach after Chili Davis agreed to a multi-year deal to remain with the Mets.

While new manager Joe Girardi looks to complete his coaching staff, a new favorite for the position has emerged.

Per Matt Breen of the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Phillies' "likely choice" for their new hitting coach will be Washington Nationals assistant hitting coach Joe Dillon.

The 44-year-old spent the past two seasons under Nationals hitting coach Kevin Long where he's worked with big-time bats like Bryce Harper, Anthony Rendon and Juan Soto.

Harper, who joined the Phillies for the 2019 season, brings an obvious link between Dillon and the organization.

A bigger vote of confidence regarding Dillon came from Long, who worked seven years with Girardi during their time with the New York Yankees. Girardi was the manager while Long was the hitting coach.

Dillon spent 12 years in professional baseball, including four in the majors with the Marlins, Brewers and Rays.

Before joining the Nationals, he was the organization's Triple-A hitting coach before spending two years as the Marlins' minor-league hitting coordinator.

Dillon provides a more modern approach to hitting, which the Phillies are looking to implement in today's analytically-driven game. That includes stressing an importance on keeping the ball in the air while preaching launch angle.

The Phillies fired John Mallee in August and finished the season with former manager Charlie Manuel at the hitting-coach position.

In a disappointing 2018 season that resulted in the firing of manager Gabe Kapler, the Phillies' offense failed to live up to expectations with the likes of Harper, Rhys Hoskins and JT Realmuto pacing the lineup.

The Phillies averaged 4.78 runs per game, just below the league average. JOE PANTORNO

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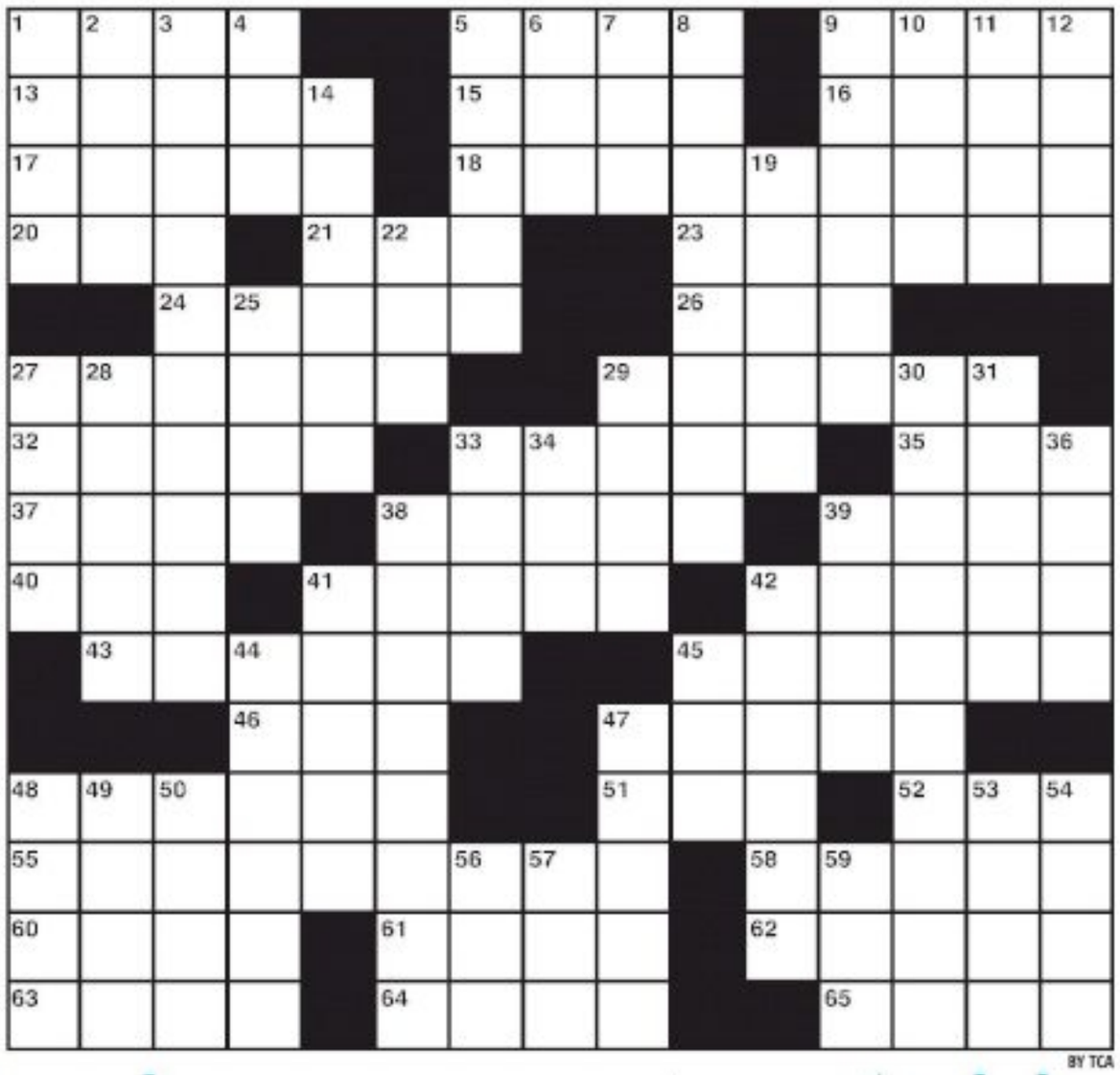

ACROSS
1 "__ push comes to shove..."
5 Pitfall
9 Farmer's yield
13 Witches' spells
15 Corridor
16 "Penny __"; Beatles hit
17 Up in arms
18 Driver's required purchase
20 Nonprofit network
21 Dog __; military ID
23 Business consolidation
24 Scrap covering a clothing tear
26 Name with Ginnie or Fannie
27 Gushed forth
29 Trio & quartet combined
32 __ Haute, IN
33 Italian autos
35 Bottom file drawer, perhaps
37 "Queen for __" of old TV
38 Leaves one's car
39 Cookie recipe verb
40 Flying mammal
41 Identical
42 Runs competitively
43 __-known; not as famous
45 Most immaculate
46 __ degree; somewhat
47 Word attached to news or sand
48 Salesmen's pitches
51 Small number
52 Word of disgust
55 Large terriers
58 Steer clear of
60 Lump of dirt
61 As __ as a pin
62 Indian lute
63 Mattel's boy dolls
64 Trike riders
65 Short note

DOWN
1 Mixer speed
2 Sage or thyme
3 Try the patience of
4 Badminton court divider
5 Piece of chicken
6 Galloped
7 Gore & his dad
8 Falls sharply & abruptly
9 Red wine
10 Chimed
11 __ in a blue moon
12 One's equal
14 Sofa
19 Gathers crops
22 Author Doyle's initials
25 Haywire
27 Use a dagger
28 Ride a bike
29 For old time's __; in honor of memories
30 Make worse
31 Little children
33 Just; impartial
34 Annoy
36 Bar soap brand
38 Agreeable
39 Uncovered
41 __ as the hills
42 India's dollars
44 Trusty mounts
45 Skillet
47 Pillars
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49 Stack
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53 Early man
54 Rescuer
56 Baseball's Durocher
57 Break a fast
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9				2				1
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	8	4			2			3
		9	4			1	2	
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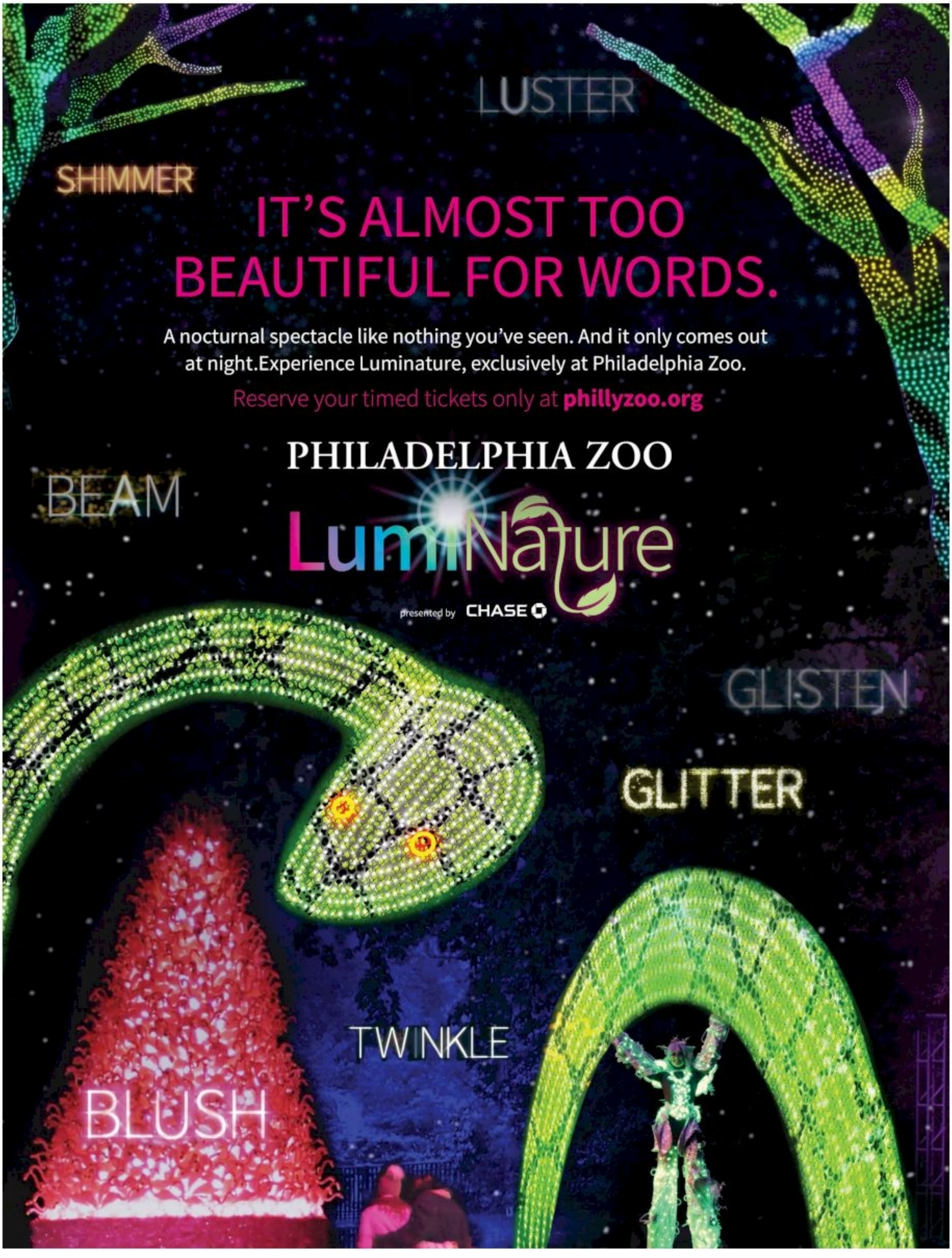
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